The second point was about power. Sir, I am not at all trying to lay the fault at the doors of the Telugu Desam Government. I said they are having their difficulties and we are having our difficulties. The exact power position is like this. It is alright they are having surplus power. It also does not matter how much surplus power they are having today. What is needed is erection of additional equipment needed for the power supply. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have assured the supply of adequate power supply for the Visakhapatnam steel plant. The requirement of power for operating 3.4 million tonnes of steel project is estimated to be 350 megamatts. Of this, 70 megawatts will be category-I load. Any interruptions in the power supply will damage the steel plant. In accordance with the normal practice in all the steel plants arrangements have been made to meet this requirement. This is only for 70 megawatts. Now, out of 350 megawatts of power, the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board has to make arrangements for the supply of 250 megawatts of power to the steel plant. The Board is yet to finalise the details of the transmission network and receiving station. The conditions stipulated by A. P. State Electricity Board with regard to operation of the units are totally unrealistic and are, therefore not acceptable to the Vizag steel plant. The matter is being pursued with the State Government. The fact that they have surplus power is wholly irrelevant for the question he raised.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: How can we provide when there is no progress?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Desai.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister just now said that the prices were based at 1980-81 prices. But, Sir, the escalation now goes upto 100 per cent. From Rs. 3,500 crores it is now about Rs. 7,500 crores. But, Sir, the prices have not gone up to that extent. The prices have been controlled and they are within a double digit. So, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minnster whether the escalation in prices is on account of inflation or change in the design of the project for adopting new technology? That is my question.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Substantially it is due to escalation. We are taking the escalation at 12 per cent compound and also partly because of some changes in the design of the project which are inevitable in a plant of this magnitude.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Babul Reddy.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: Sir, the Minister has stated that in 1980-81 the estimates were Rs. 2200 crores and later on due to the escalation it went up to Rs. 50, 00 crores. Now, he used a very apt expression, being an expert in accounts, it would whoop more than Rs. 7,600 crores. So that means 350 per cent but not 100 per cent. Sir, from the original estimate what are the major factors that contributed for this extraordinary escalation in these four years?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, I think that I have already answered that precise question put by Mr. Desai.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 263.

Telecast of happenings in Punjab by the Pakistan Television

*263. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that T. V. coverage by Pakistan of the army action in Punjab was distored and happenings in Delhi Gurudwaras were telecast on the same evening by the Lahore T. V. Station; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that some spies are working in Delhi who take T. V. shots for Pakistan television and send the tapes the same day to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The coverage of Punjab events by Pakistan Television was distorted mischievous and provocative. Selective visuals of incidents in a Delhi Gurdwara on June 10 and June 17 were telecast on Pakistan TV on June 12 and June 18 respectively.

(b) No specific instance of this kind has come to notice.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Sir, the second part of the reply is not satisfactory. In London there was a demonstration, a combined demonstration of pro-khalistanis and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front and that was telecast by Lahore TV and then by other Pakistani TV station also. But that is understandable, that is, from where Pakistan TV got the tapes. But the demonstration by pro-khalistanis at Bangla Saheb Gurdwara in Delhi was telecast by Lahore TV the same day. Similarly when Amritsar was under curfew, the movement of the defence forces and the situation in the city were also telecast by Lahore TV station the same day or the next day. I want to know who sent these tapes to Pakistan for telecast. What is the source of Pakistan TV to get these tapes?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, I have said in my answer that the incidents of June 10 were telecast by Pakistan TV on the 12th, and the incidents of June 17 were telecast on June 18 by Pakistan TV. What the Pakistan authorities say is that they are using foreign television news for their telecasts. They had named a couple of sources for their telecasts. One of them is 'BBC' and another is 'VISNEWS' which operates in Delhi. There are various ways of transmitting it abroad and then sending it on to Pakistan. What the hon. Member wants to know is that there might be some people—whom he terms as "spies"—who might be doing this clandestinely and sending it to Pakistan. To that I said, we have no specific instance of that kind. But the way the Pakistan TV gets news is from the foreign TV news.

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Was any foreign agency allowed to cover the incidents when the town was curfew-bound, during the curfew hours?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: When there is curfew, and particular-tan. To that I said, we have no specific men are allowed to go to Amritsar and there is no question of covering what is happening there at present.

SHRI VISHWAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether some shots of the 1st June, 1984 were carried by Pakistan Television either in the same day or one or two days after that. And who were the people who took those shots within the Golden Temple? Does the Government have any information about this?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, on the 4th June the Pakistan TV showed excerpts from an old film of Bhindranwale in which they selected some very inflamatory statements and telecast them. In fact, that is their *modus operandi*. They take new from various sources, including news from our own television and then in a very mischievous way, select excerpts which are very inflammatory and most damaging to our national prestige.*

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Sir, in the question it is clearly stated that it was telecast on the same day, whereas the Minister has stated that it was telecast after two days and that the Pakistan TV got it from 'BBC'. I want a specific answer from the Minister as to who are the persons responsible for taking all these things inside the Golden Temple as well as in other parts of Punjab and then sending them to Pakistan. Is there any chance of Pakistan having taken it in our country and then seding it there?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I have already said that there is no question of foreign newsmen going there.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: He has mentioned 'on the same day'.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I have denied that. The incidents of 10th were reported on Pakistan T. V. on 12th. I have also said how they do it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the films shown are commercially-acquired films, e.g. from 'VISNEWS'. The other part of the clarification is that excerpts from these films are selected in such a way as to make them 'mischievious'. If I have understood right, I believe the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, when he recently visited Pakistan, raised some of these aspects and told them that we find that the coverage is planted and is not entirely satisfactory. There is a flaw in the Minister's statement. If the films are commercially-acquired films from 'VISNEWS', then the objection is with the 'VISNEWS' as much as with their mischievous presentation in Pakistan. I would like to ask two or three clarifications. What precisely were the objections raised by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, in the context of Punjab, when he went there? What was the specific reply of the Government of Pakistan? I believe that possibly to overcome the existing shortcomings in the Departments of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Ministry of External Affairs has now found fit to post an officer of the Ministry of External Affairs in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting so that these gaps are filled in. Perhaps on that also, the Minister might like to say something.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: I have spoken about the way the Pakistan T. V. goes about using matters from various sources. It is true that 'VISNEWS' sends T. V. news. As I said, they have even used Indian T.V. news also in a very selective way. They take certain excerpts and highlight them. For example, there is a placard with anti-national slogan. They project it. They project it the next day also. They go on repeating it in a most mischievous way and they want to create an impression as if all these things are happening in our country in a particular way. When Mr. Bhagat went there, he did protest. Not only Mr. Bhagat, we have also made a series of protests to them. We have called their Ambassador here to our Ministry and told him about it.Our Ambassador has also protested to the Pakistan authorities at all levels. We have told them that what they are doing is not at all a friendly thing to do, that they are very selective and present things in a mischievous way. We have made our reaction known to them about what they are doing. We think that what they are doing is most objectionable and is not at all friendly. The whole blame lies with the way the Pakistan T.V. uses it. Pakistan T.V. is an official organ and the Pakistan Government cannot escape responsibility, whatever it is. The reply generally given is: We will try to moderate it; we are getting it from froeign news agencies and we are using it. What they are saying is most unconvincing.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What was the specific reply given to the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting? That is the other part of my question. What was the response of the Government of Pakistan to these valid objections raised? What did the Government of Pakistan say?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: They have a stock reply. Whether it is President Zia talking to Mr. Bhagat or their Ambassador talking to us here in the Ministry, they say that they are taking it from foreign news agencies and that they have no intention of interfering in our affairs. But what they do is completely con-

trary to that. What is objectionable is this. President Zia and four of his Cabinet members, in spite of all these assurances, have made most damaging statements so far as we are concerned. (*Interruptions*) All of them are baseless. For example, the newspaper 'Jung' which is having the widest circulation, put out a report It is a controlled press and the Government controls everything that happens there and these papers cannot report even on interal political happenings. Now, in spite of all these assurances, they say that the Prime Minister has shifted to the Red Fort for security reasons. There is no limit to untruth.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Is there any information with the Government whether any of these video films which we are talking about, were taken from spy satellites? Have any such films been shown in any foreign country?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Nothing has come to our notice.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: It is a fact that we have been doing our best, as we always do, to maintain our friendly relations with Pakistan and even to promote them. But our sentiments are hurt when there is lot of evidence of active involvement of Pakistan in furtherance of the terrorist activities in the country. In this context I would like to ask the Government whether they can either confirm or deny that Pakistan T.V. show remote shorts of the late Bhindranwale in such a way as to give the mischievous impression to the people who see these remote shorts that Sant Bhindranwale is not dead, but is alive? If that is so, what action is being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: This is one of the possible distortions that is happening there and it could happen there. The whole thing they do is very distorted. They did so in the Bhindranwale film. It is an old film in which he was making provocative statements. Selective shots are taken from that and are shown to the people and thus they try to incite people in our country.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: That is what they do. But what does the Government propose to do?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That he has already said.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: But what are we doing in this regard?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has said it. Please hear the replies very carefully.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: You may be knowledgeable. Let me explain my point to get an answer or assurance from the Minister that he will enquire into the matter. Shots of late Sant Bhindranwale are being shown in Pakistan T.V. If that is so, what action is being contemplated to be taken by the Government?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: This is regarding a particular programme or portion of a particular programme. We will look into it.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Some such rumours are being floated by the terrorists here and perhaps they are being picked up there. But I can assure the House that Bhindranwale is dead and his body was identified. If he could be resurrected, other people who have died in Pakistan may also be resurrected.

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: An impression has been created that while the other countries are busy in spreading anti-India propaganda, the Government of India has not done enough to counter it. May I know what steps the Government are taking in this regard and whether it has produced any video films and circulated them abroad?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: We have taken a number of steps during the last few weeks regarding publicising our view-point and giving true facts to people abroad. We have sent a large number of video tapes to foreign countries and they have been used by a large number of ethnic TV networks. We have distributed them to associations of Indians who are interested in this. A lot has been done to project our view and give true facts to our people abroad, particularly of Indian origin.

Production loss at Burnpur (IISCO)

*264. SHRI KALYAN ROY:†

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the blast furnaces of the IISCO at Burnpur were shut down causing serious production losses to the Company;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what were the consequences of the shut down and the extent of damages thus suffered;

(d) whether any investigation has been conducted by an independent team of experts in this regard; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) There was a total power failure from the DVC for the IISCO steel plant on May 13, 1984. Both the Kaliphari and Hirapur feeders to IISCO tripped at 1314 hours through non-directional earth fault relay as a result of which the total plant load came on the captive unit and the voltage came down to 5 K.V. A large number of boiler auxiliaries tripped leading to law steam pressure and steam turbine driven pumps could not supply cooling water to the blast furnaces. As a result, the cooling tuyeres of the two blast furnaces got burnt. When the water supply was resumed, water entered into the blast furnaces resulting in their chilling and damage to equipment resulting in closure of two blast furnaces for repair. The loss of production during this period of repairs was hot metal-53,950 tonnes, ingot steel-30855 tonnes and saleable steel-32,580 tonnes. The replacement cost of the burnt equipment is estimated to be about Rs. 14 lakhs.'

(d) Yes, Sir. A team of three experts, two of which including the leader of the team were not from IISCO have investigated the mishap.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I think the Minister will agree with me that this kind of mishap—total collapse of the blast furnace—has never happened in the past. You will correct me if I am wrong. I do not think it has ever happened in any of the steel plants, either in the public sector or in the private sector so far. The only big mishap we are aware of is the roof collapse in Rourkela Steel plant when late Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam was the Minister of Steel and Mines. He immediately set up an independent enquiry, ater suspending the officers who were in charge.

Now, according to this paper which has been laid, the Minister has given three reasons, namely, power failure from DVC; tripping of the boilers; and sudden on-rush of water. These are I think, the three points he has

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalyan Roy.